**Culture Capsule Activity**

**Geography and Culture**

**Group Biome\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Individual Country\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Presentation Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Total Points\_\_\_\_\_/80**

**Introduction:** Individually, you will be researching the geographic features of a country that is present in the biome your group was assigned to in the last few days. After you **research** your country and answer your questions, you will be creating a **poster** to present to the class on your country and its biome and design a small **culture capsule** that contains artifacts that can help our class understand the culture of your country. Imagine what you would want to know about the people who live in Morocco, Ghana, Afghanistan, Ireland, India or any other place if you were to visit. Model your project in that way-to be fun and interesting! You may choose to research the country that is indicated on your biome graph, and then you have already begun your research. Or, you may choose any other country in the world that at least 50% of that country contains your assigned biome.

**Part 1---Be the Researcher**

**Research Questions and Facts: 30 points total. 2 points per question.**

Choose **three of the following categories**: Geography 1, Geography 2, Culture or Geographic Impact on Culture. Your poster need only contain **three** categories of research. All students choose the first one on **biomes.** Then choose any other two categories. They are tiered according to difficulty.

Use the following for your research. They are pre-approved:

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/>

[www.asdlibraries.org](http://www.asdlibraries.org) (there is a great site called **country reports (username: password:**  on here!)

[www.blueplanetbiomes.org](http://www.blueplanetbiomes.org)

[www.sheppardsoftware.com](http://www.sheppardsoftware.com)

***There are also a series of geography and culture books at the front of the room you may use. These are handpicked. Begin to read and use them.***

**Geography 1—all students must do this one.**

1. **Location**---show us where it is on a map in relation to other areas-label the surrounding countries or bodies of water
2. Give a description of your country’s **biomes.**
3. Describe the type of climate you would find in your country. If you have multiple biomes, tell about this.
4. Find pictures and label of each least 3 **plants** that are found in your countries’ biomes.
5. Find pictures and label at least 3 **animals** that are found in your countries’ biomes.

**Geography 2-this is a tier 2/3 choice**

1. Find pictures of and name least 4 **landforms** in your country. Refer back to your landform project for ideas.
2. What is the **capital city** in your country? Label it on the map on your poster.
3. Find a picture of 3 **natural resources** found in your country.
4. Describe what each resource is USED for.
5. Geography plays a role in the types of **houses** people live in. Draw or find pictures showing two different types of housing people live in TYPICALLY in your country.

**Culture-this is a tier 2/3 choice**

1. What are the major **religions** in your country with percentages (how much of each)?
2. What are the major **ethnic groups** that make up your people?
3. What **languages** are spoken?
4. Teach us to speak the phrases: hello, goodbye, please and thank you in the most spoken language. Place these on the poster.
5. Find a picture and label three **foods** eaten in your country.

**Geographic Impact on Culture—this is a top tier choice**

1. Describe one **environmental issue** your country is facing that is related to geography.
2. What is one way that the country is, or can be, working to solve this issue?
3. How do the climate and/or landforms in your country **affect the type of foods** that are grown and cooked?
4. Define these terms first: **Export. Import.**
5. Draw or print pictures of examples of 3 food products that your country grows to eat, export or import.

**Part 2---Be the Designer**

**Poster: 10 points.**

All research needs to be displayed on your poster to help the class learn about their chosen country. Clearly **title each of the three sections and place pictures and information on poster in a neat and legible way.**

**Part 3---Be the Archaeologist**

**Culture Capsule: 40 points total for artifacts (5 points per object and 3 points for each museum label.)**

Now that you have completed the basic research and created your poster, you may begin your culture capsule. You will help us to understand the culture of your country by creating/making/constructing or collecting **5 artifacts** that represent your country along with writing **a label that would appear on it in a museum.** Begin by at least describing:

What is the artifact that you have included? Give it a name.

What country is it from?

Describe what/how we can learn about your culture from this artifact?

Example:

To get you thinking, here is an example of some artifacts I might put in my culture capsule of the Pacific Northwest region in America.

* In the case of the Pacific Northwest in America, these items might be appropriate: ash from Mount St. Helens; salmon fishing gear as salmon is a key resource; a Pearl Jam CD as the band had their beginning here; a ski pin due to the popularity of skiing in the region; a miniature umbrella because it rains a lot; a small bundle of wood to keep warm, or a computer disk to show that many types of technology were invented in the region.

Say I have a sample of ash:



This is a microscopic ash sample from the Mt. Saint Helens eruption in 1980. Mt. Saint Helens is an active volcano that is located north of Seattle, Washington, USA. The eruption of this volcano poses a threat to loggers and other people that live or work on or near the mountain. Due to this threat, area residence would be wise to have evacuation plans in case of emergency. The volcano has also been the center of many Native American stories and lore that provide entertainment and history to residents.

**Make a list of possible artifacts for your culture capsule here:**